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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT**

COUNTRY Poland

DATE:

INFO.

SUBJECT Private Trade

DIST. 16 May 1947

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PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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1. Private commerce is organized in the following institutions: The Supreme Council of Merchants' Associations (zrzeszenie), and the Local Merchants' Associations (związki), one for each voivodate and district (województwo and powiat). In addition, there are Central Associations (Zrzeszenia) of the various branches of commerce. 50X1-HUM
2. In the wholesale iron trade the Ministry of Industry has forbidden private merchants to sell metal sheets, iron pipes and/or tubes. The reason given was that the requirements for these products on the part of the railways, industry and exports amount to 730,000 tons per annum while the total of production was only 430,000 tons per annum. The "Centrostal" Head Office is, therefore, selling these products through its branches in the Spolem and Elibor co-operatives exclusively.
3. Only "Centrals" (Head Offices) of the chemical trade are authorized to purchase chemical products from state chemical factories (which work mostly on exports to the USSR). Private traders may only purchase from them.
4. Private traders in the textile branch are well organized. A number of firms formed a merger and, in its dealings with the Textile "Centrala", private wholesalers have achieved an equal footing with the Spolem co-operative.
5. In Pomerania, private traders have been eliminated from the coal supply trade in the villages even though they possessed the necessary apparatus throughout the whole province. Coal deliveries are effected exclusively by the Spolem co-operative.
6. Private wholesale trade has been seriously jeopardized by the constant growth of P.C.H. (Panstwowa Centrala Handlowa-State Trading Head Office). Thus, in Krakow, the branch of this P.C.H. which had a turnover of 16 million zlotys in the first quarter reached a figure of 26 million zlotys for the month alone. Its turnover is steadily increasing. 50X1-HUM
7. Spolem has been granted a monopoly for the distribution of artificial fertilizers. the production of fertilizers exceeded the pre-war figures. Spolem's distribution system broke down and the "Centrala" of the Chemical Industries in Gliwice approached the firms which had formerly dealt in fertilizers with a proposal that they might join in the distribution. 50X1-HUM

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8. State controlled trade is beginning to replace private initiative in the retail trade. As regards the paper trade, the State Publishing Works (Panstwowe Zaklady Wydawnicze) are now supplying schools with stationary at fixed prices, so that private traders who must charge free market prices cannot compete. In the sugar trade P.C.H and Spolem get 85% of the allocations and private wholesalers only 15%.

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